

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 26 - 36, 38, 49 - 55, 58 - 69, 72 - 74, 76 - 82, 84 - 89, 91, 94 - 104, 106 - 129, 140 - 143, 149 - 192 are pending.

Claims 86 and 104 have been amended.

Allowable claims 93 and 105 have been canceled for the reason that these claims have been incorporated in their respective base claims.

Rejected claims 37, 39 - 48, 56, 70, 75, 83, 130 - 134, and 144 - 148 have been canceled.

The Examiner's careful examination of the 192 claims is much appreciated.

Claims 37, 39 - 48, 56, 70, 75, 83, 86, 87, 94 - 97, 104, 106 - 110, 130 - 134, 144 - 148, 169, 170, and 172 were rejected. The rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in order to obtain an early allowance of the instant application, claims 37, 39 - 48, 56, 70, 75, 83, 130 - 134, and 144 - 148 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant recognizes the right to file a continuation application during the pendency of the instant application in order to further pursue the canceled claims.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 26 - 36, 38, 49 - 55, 58 - 69, 72 - 74, 76 - 82, 84, 85, 99 - 103, 111 - 129, 140 - 143, 149 - 168, 176 - 178, 181 - 192 are allowable, and that claims 88, 89, 91, 93, 98, 105, 171, 173 - 175, 179, and 180 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Rejection of Claims 86, 87, 94 - 97, 169, 170, and 172

Independent claim 86 has dependent claims 87 - 98 and 169 - 175. Claims 90 and 92 were previously canceled. Claims 88, 89, 91, 93, 98, 171, and 173 - 175 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Independent claim 86 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 93; claim 93 has been canceled accordingly. Claim 86 is believed to be allowable. Dependent claims 87 - 89, 91, 94 - 98, and 169 - 175 are allowable at least for the reason that their base claim is allowable. The rejection of claims 86, 87, 94 - 97, 169, 170, and 172 is believed to be overcome.

Rejection of Claims 104 and 106 - 110

Independent claim 104 has dependent claims 105 - 110, 179, and 180. Claim 105 is deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Independent claim 104 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 105; claim 105 has been canceled accordingly. Claim 104 is believed to be allowable. Dependent claims 106 - 110 are allowable at least for the reason that their base claim is allowable. The rejection of claims 104 and 106 - 110 is believed to be overcome.

Claim sets

For convenience, the following claims sets are pending:

- independent claim 26, dependent claims 27 - 36, 38, 140 - 143
- independent claim 49, dependent claims 50 - 55, 58, 149 - 153
- independent claim 59, dependent claims 60 - 69, 154 - 158
- independent claim 72, dependent claims 73, 74, 76 - 78, 159 - 163
- independent claim 79, dependent claims 80 - 82, 84, 85, 164 - 168
- independent claim 86, dependent claims 87 - 89, 91, 94 - 98, 170 - 175
- independent claim 99, dependent claims 100 - 103, 176 - 178
- independent claim 104, dependent claims 106 - 110, 179, 180
- independent claim 111, dependent claims 112 - 117, 181 - 184
- independent claim 118, dependent claims 119 - 122, 185
- independent claim 123, dependent claims 124 - 129, 186 - 188
- independent claim 189, dependent claims 190 - 192

Appl. No. 09/877,640
Amdt. dated July 29, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group


PATENT

CONCLUSION

All claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
60272311 v1